Madurai Dist. Record

Vol:- No: 1201

G-NO: 19564

No. 1201

1201

Block 7

Rack No.

Shelf No.

Serial No. 1201

General No. 19564

Copy of general Instructions applicable to

Ramnad —

1201
19564

Para 1-3 — They may be Reduced under the following general Heads Vizt.

Constituting the Zemindars Proprietors of their Respective Zemindaries & Estates —

Concluding with them A permanent Settlem[ent]

Their Estates answerable by sale and transfer for any deficiency in the due discharge of the public Revenue The Rights of Talookdars and of all other discriptions of Inhabitants to be Secur[ed] against any infringement by or in consequence of the Conformation of the Zemindar or other the Proprietary right in the Soil Respecting Per[sons] declining to hold their Estates on the Jumma wh[ich] shall be assessed thereon and disqualified Land holders —

Relative to the transfer of Estates in whole [or] in part from one Proprietor to another by public or private Sale Gift or otherwise and apportioning the fixed Jumma on Each Devision Respect[ively]

Regarding native Revenue Officers to keep [the] Accounts of Revenue and to furnish the information for the purposes of Government —

The

The disposal of the present Havelly Lands the Proprietory right in which is now vested in the Company –

8

7 Concluding with the Zemindars & other Land holders a permanent Settlement

In order however more effectually to secure this great desideratum by giving to ~~Property its chief value. the limitation~~ of the public demand thereon it has been further resolved to form a Settlement with each Estate on a principle of Permanency calculating the same upon equitable moderate terms – According to the Resources of the District combining its present state and probable improvement in the course of a short period under System of Property and Secur[illegible] about to take place – the Jumma or Land [illegible]ich may be deemed adequate upon the [illegible] to be fixed in perpetuity and declar[illegible] unalterable –

This can only be the case in places of very extraordinary expected Fertility

10 We quote for your in[illegible]mation the following observations of the Honorable Court of Directors on a Permanent Settlement, applied to Bengal – Viz^t. We find it convincingly argued that a Permanent assessment upon the scale of the Present ability of the Country must contain in its nature, a productive Principle What the

possession

Possession of Property and the sure enjoyment of the benefit deriveable from it will awaken and Stimulate industry Promote agriculture extend Improvement established Credit and Augment the General Health and Prosperity Hence arises the best Security that no permanent deminution can be expected to take place at least to any considerable amount - Occasional Deficiences may occur for a time from the mismangement of Particular Land holders but it cannot be supposed that any of the Lands will permanently be less Productive than at Present and as we have every reason to belive that the Jumma now formed is Moderate in its Total amount & Properly distributed The Lands themselves well in most instances ultimately by a sufficient Security for the Proportion charged upon them With Respect to losses from drought inundation and other Casualties These occur also in the Present System and usually fall upon the Company themselves but will hereafter be different because the advantages of Propriety right and Secured Profits in the Landholder will on his part afford means to support and incite Exertions to repair there the deficiencies

of bad Seasons will on the whole be more than counterbalanced by the fruits of favorable years These will thus be agradual accumulation whilst the demands of Government continue the same and in every Step of this progressive work Property becomes more valueable The owner of more Importance and the System acquires additional Strength, such Surely appears to be the tendency and just consequences of an equitable fixed assessment

13 The assessment on the Zemindaries is to be fixed Exclusive and independant of all duties Taxes and other collections known under the general denomination of Sayer which includes that of the Abkary or Tax on the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors and drugs —

14 The Assessment of the Sayer is however not meant to include the Rent derivable by the Proprietor for Orphards Shepherds pasture ground and Fisheries or for Ware-houses Shops or other buildings the same being for the use of the ground or in other words Ground Rent tho these have been — sometimes classed under the General denomination

of Sayer such Rents being properly the Private Right of the Proprietor and in no Respect a Tax or duty on Commodities the Exclusive Right of Government

15 It is also to be fixed exclusive

2d Par of the Salt Revenue and independant of all

3d Do existing alienated Lands whether Exempt from the Payment of public Revenue with or without due authority, the Village Maunums or Lands held by Public and Private Servants in lieu of Wages excepted the whole of which

4 Do are to be considered annexed to the Circar Lands and declared responsible for the publick Revenue assessed on the Zemindary

16 All allowances of Cauzees and Government Revenue Officers Gumas excepted heretofore paid by Landholders as well as any publick pensions hitherto paid thro the Landholders are to be added to the amount of Jumma and to be provided for by Government under Prescribed Regulations

17 With Respect to the amount of the permanent Settlement to be concluded on these principles with Zemindars you will

will observe that Government have desired
us to prepare materials for that Purpose
on the best of Information which our
Records and the Recent Enquiries of our
Collectors may afford Inreference to the
former it has been resolved to adopt the
Statements of the Committee of Circuit as
the general Standard that is after deducting
the amount of the Revenue derived from
Sayer or internal duties and Salt included
therein which as Already noticed are to be
resumed entirely in to the Hands of Govern-
-ment. the Latter to be placed under the
management of the Collectors and the
former to be at their Pleasure collected
suspended or abolished taking 2/3ds of the
Remaining Gross Collections upon a
general Calculation as the average Estimate
of the fixed Land Tax. We donot mean
by this to lay it down as a fixed Principle
that each Zemindary shall be assessed
according to this Rates from the accounts
of the Committee of Circuit as in that case
we might proceed to form the Settlement
without

without further delay, but it is expected that the amount of the Permanent Settlement will not fall short in the Gross of the aggregate 2/3ds of the Committees Statements after the deduction of the Sayer and Salt as abovementioned

6 average in Ramnad will be perfectly fair

18 Some variation may be necessary with respect to particular Zemindaries arising chiefly from local considerations and it is on this Account that we wish to avail ourselves of any Information you may be possessed of or may be able to procure in addition to what is already on Record since the date of the Committee of Circuits Reports

21 The amount of Sayer & Salt being deducted from the gross Collections before the 2/3ds forming the last Column are take the only Claim to Remuneration which the Zemindar could advance would be on account of the 1/3 which would have been left to him had the Collection of the Sayer been continued in his hands but deducting these from the charges collection

the

the neat profit or income supposing it to amount to even 3/10th of the Sum Stated by the Committee of Circuit would be so inconsiderable that we deem it to be amply provided for in the favourable Terms of the Permanent Settlement — adverting to the Sacrifice of Revenue to be made by the Company by abolishing the numerous internal Chokies and to all the advantages connected therewith You will therefore understand that the Settlement is to be formed on the principle of excluding the Zemindars from all interference with or participation in the Collection or disposal of the Sayer. Which Government assumes to itself as its Indefeasible right, but allowing them A deduction in their Jumma of 1/10 of the net Produce from the Salt as Estimable by the Committee of Circuit —

22 It is further to be understood that Government will impose such assessment exclusive of the Permanent Settlement

as they may seem equitable on all Lands at present alienated and paying no further Revenue which may have been or may be Proved to be held under Illegal or invalid Tittles, and the Revenue of which is not included in the Committees Account Rules will be prescribed for Trying in ~~a~~ Regular Courts the Validity of the Tittles of persons holding or Claiming a right to hold such Lands and for determining the Amount of the annual assessment to be imposed thereon by Government if exceeding a certain extent otherwise to be considered the Property of the Zemindar

23 Further Rules will be also enacted in Regard to all Lands Paying no Revenue to Government(The Tittles to which may be confirmed in case of the Grants some of which are for life only expiring and Escheating to Government when they would also be liable to additional assessment by Government forming no part of the present Resources of the District on which the ~~[illegible]~~

permanent

Jumma is calculated it is to be presu-
10 =med agreat progress has been made in
ascertaining all alienations in consequence
of the Boards orders under date 23 May
1795 -

24 you will hereafter be furnished
with a publication respecting those Lands
requiring all grants to be registered within
a specific period & indefault thereof to
be thenceforward declared invalid and
resumable without enquiry unless in very
11 peculiar Cases where in sufficient cause
can be shewn for the Omission - and to
prevent all future alienations as well
as the information of the local Authorities
of the number and extent of these Lands
a regular Register will be formed in the
first Instance and hereafter kept of all
existing grants and mutations noting
progressively those which may be resumed
or otherwise cease

26 All Police allowances in
Land or money at present appropriated for
the Support of this Department is to be consider'd
exclusive

Exclusive of & unconnected with the permanent

Settlement and Resumable by Government

should they take the Conduct of it into their

own hands but in that Case to be solely

applicable to that Purpose and we –

desire you will take the necessary measures

for ascertaining the particulars of each and

Report them for our Information explain-

ing fully at the same time the Establishment

Does it include the Maraum of the Amblagar

kept up & the Regulations under which

this duty has been performed by the

Zemindars this is not meant to include

the fees and maniums of Village Talliars

or Watchers

27 It is well known that in

the Circars there are very extensive Tracts of

Uncultivated arable and Waste Lands

forming part of every Zemindary – These are

to be given up in perpetuity to the Zemindars

free any additional assessment with such

encouragement to every Proprietor to

Improve his Estate to the utmost extent of his

means

means as is held out by the limitation of the Public demand for ever and the Institution of Regular Judicial Courts to support him in all his just Rights whether against Individuals or the Officers of Government who may attempt in any Respect to encroach upon them the advantages which may be expected to result in the Course of Progressive Improve=ments from these Lands will as ought to put the Zemindar upon that Respectable footing as to enable them with the greatest readiness to discharge the Public demand to secure to himself and family every necessary Comfort and to have besides a Surplus to answer any Possible emergency —

51 Under these Circumstances it is resolved to abolish all the Revenue Officers of the discriptions above alluded to, Except the Village Curnams or Puttwarries to be on the same footing in every Respect as those of Bengal & the Proprietory Landholders to be in like manner responsible with Regard to them. — The Accompanying Copy of

of the Bengal Regulations relating to them will fully explain their Duties as well as the obligations on the part of the Landholders

52 That we may have comple Information of all Curnums at present in employ we desire to be furnished with a Register of all those in your division shewing the Villages to which they respectively belong and the allowances made them whether in Money Lands or Fees distinguishing and shewing the Amount of each also the Extent of Land and you will at the same time point out where in your opinion Any Officers of this description may be wanting or if any instance there should be more than may be necessary

53 Though it is the Resolution of Government to Abolish all other Revenue officers intermediate of the Collector and Curnums it is there intended to

to have due consideration for the Present
Holders who with their familys have
depended on their Stations for Subsistence
with this view they mean to Constitute
23 them the Proprietors of the Lands now held
by them subject to a fixed adequate
Assessment you will therefore prepare
and lay before the Board an accurate State-
-ment of all such Lands shewing the
Extent thereof and distinguishing the
Nunjit & Punjit arable and Waste Land
& the Annual Gross Produce for the last
five years This Information to be arranged
opposite to the name & official designation
of each of the Parties Respectively and an
explanation to be annexed thereto in a
Column for Remarks of the nature of
his Office and of the length of the time
he has held it as well as of his age and
General Character and Conduct therein
Their original Sunnuds of office to be
Transmitted with your Report you giving
them

them a Receipt for the same & an attested Copy —

57 The arguments which have been advanced in Support of the good Policy of constituting the Zemindars actual Proprietors of their Estates & of concluding with them a permanent Settlement of Jumma will equally apply with Respect to the lands now denominated Havelly in as much that vesting the Property in the Soil in the Natives & Limiting the public demand thereon to an ascertained permanent Jumma will tend more to the General Prosperity of the Country and happyness of the People than any mode of management hither to adopted being the Substitution of a System which is calculated to Call forth all the energy & resources of the Country by making it the Interest of the native Inhabitants

to

to carry Cultivation and every other Improvement to the utmost Extent of their means for the uncertainty and consequent discouragements attendant upon constant fluctuation in the public assessments & no uniform plan of internal administration but all resting on temporary expedient

58 Under this Consideration Government has come to the Resolution of Transferring to native Land holders in all practicable cases the Property which they now hold in the Havelly Lands & with this View it is their intention to parcel it out in to Lots competent to bear a fixed annual Jumma of from 1 to 10,000 Pagodas each and to put them up to public Sale exclusive of the Salt & Sayer Revenue which includes the Abkary or Tax on the Sale of the Intoxicating Liquors and drugs which are to be

Retained

Retained in the hands of Government as already explained with Respect to the Zemindaries Varying the Lots between the above two Sums will enable a greater number of Bidders to come forward being adopted to the Circumstances of all Classes of Inhabitants above the Cultivating Ryots for where one is not competent it is most Probable such is the desire to possess Landed property that one or more with join to make the Purchase at the same time we are rather inclined to bear to Estates above than below an annual Jumma of 5000 Pagodas as being more likely to give better Security for a Permanent Revenue as tending more to encourage Extensive Improvement and enabling the Proprietor to make up deficiencies in some from advantages derived in Villages more favorably Situated

59 In forming the Lots you will of course pay attention to local circumstances such as including all Villages & Watered from one Tank in one Estate Each Estate to be compact not formed of dispersed
30 Villages as Moolahs or Pergannahs & Sometimes are in this Country. It is the Wish of Government to leave the Construction and Care of the Tanks and Watercourses entirely to the Proprietors who will however to encourage improvement be assisted with Loans from the Treasury repayable with Interest at 12 ⅌ Cent on Security of their Estates and under prescribed Regulations for ensuring the Objects for which such & advances are made — Where Works may be of great general importance to the Country or too Extensive to be entrusted to the charge of Individual Proprietors or where there may

in

in your Opinion be other ca[illegible]
would make it adviseable for yo[illegible]
to Reserve the care and Repair of them you
will state your Reasons at large at the same
time apportioning the Jumma so as to inden-
-nify the Company as far as may be practi-
-cable for the Charge to be thereby incurred

64 Some of the Lots will of course
contain a larger extent of uncultivated untill[illegible]
& Waste Lands than others while some may
Possess peculiar advantages from local
causes favorable to Cultivation and the
disposal of the Produce such as having a
plentiful supply of water and being
34 near to the Sea Coast or large Towns
All these and other Circumstances affecting
the Value of a Lot you may apportion
for Sale must be ascertained & duly
Estimated in fixing the Assessment &c

65 It is very probable that in
some instances the Improvable nature of the
Lands

14236

Lands or other favorable Circumstances of future avail may make it adviseable not to demand the permanent Jumma which may be proportionate to its computed value when in an improved State until a further date but nevertheless that it may derive all the benefit of Permanency in the Assessment we think where this is the case it would be adviseable to fix a reduced Jumma at the Commencement and gradually to rise to the full Assessment the Progressive encrease and the Periods thereof to be all Specified in the Bill of Sale that the Purchaser may know the bounds of demand to be made upon him in perpetuity